

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated December 1, 2005. In response to the issues raised, the Applicant offers the following submissions. Also enclosed, is a Terminal Disclaimer linking the term and ownership of any patent granted on the present application to that of co-pending USSN 10/760,233.

Specification

The Applicant has corrected typographical errors throughout the specification as well as updated US docket numbers by their corresponding US application numbers or granted patent numbers. The Applicant submit that no new matter has been added.

Non-Statutory Double Patenting

The enclosed Terminal Disclaimer links the term and ownership of any patent granted on the present application to that of co-pending USSN 10/760,233. The Applicant submits that this avoids any unjust timewise extension of patent rights or harassment from multiple assignees.

35 U.S.C. §102 - Claims 1 to 3 and 5

Claims 1 to 3 and 5 stand rejected for lack of novelty in light of US 6,439,908 to Silverbrook. The Applicant disagrees.

The '908 patent describes the present Assignee's modular pagewidth printhead. Each module 12 has a single printhead chip 18. The modules can be individually removed and replaced so that the entire pagewidth printhead is not scrapped because of nozzle failure in one chip.

In contrast, the present invention has removable modules 30 with two or more chips 50 (more correctly called 'printhead integrated circuits') each. The modules can mount into the casing in an end to end configuration to provide a wide format pagewidth printhead as shown in Figure 36. The support members 40 for each module are designed to be inter-connectable so that there is a sealed fluid connection between each of the ink channels. This dramatically simplifies the ink distribution to each of the printhead IC's along the entire span of the casing 20.

Accordingly, '908 does not teach fundamental elements of the claimed invention. The cited modules do not have two or more printhead IC's and do not have ends that inter-connect with other modules for sealed fluid connection.

In light of the above, the cited reference fails to anticipate the invention defined by any of claims 1 to 3 or 5.

35 U.S.C. §103 – Claim 4

Claim 4 stands rejected as obvious in light of US 6,439,908 to Silverbrook in view of US 2003/0007042 to Lu et al.

As discussed above, '908 fails to teach or suggest several elements defined in claim 1. The disclosure in Lu also fails to teach or suggest these elements. As claim 4 incorporates these elements by virtue of its indirect dependence from claim 1, it is clear that the citations fail to support a rejection on the basis of §103.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been successfully traversed and the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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